

NEWSLETTER



CALIFORNIA ARBORETUM FOUNDATION

JULY, 1974

Foundation Board Elects Officers For New Year



Frank Regan, Tootie Grivich, Ruth Mary Larson

The Board of Trustees of the California Arboretum Foundation elected their officers for the June 1974 to June 1975 period at a dinner meeting held in the Seminar Room on June fourth. Reporting for the Nominating Committee was Lillian Steinhilber. Other members of the Committee were Bob Paradise and Alice Coulombe. Their selection of Tootie Grivich to serve as President for another year, Ruth Mary Larson as First Vice President and Frank Regan as Second Vice President and Treasurer was unanimously accepted

by the other members of the Board.

Attending their first board meeting were six newly elected trustees: J. Lyle Cunningham, president of Public Management Service, Inc. of Arcadia, a firm offering a wide range of professional services to both public and private groups; Thomas Fueling, general manager of the products group for Lawry's Food, past president of the Los Angeles Sales and Marketing Group, an Arcadia resident interested in serving his community and especially the Arboretum as part of that community; Lois

Mullen, the just retired president of the Christian Women's Fellowship at the Alhambra Christian Church, a member of the PTA board of Dana Junior High, secretary of Kenneth Mullen Consulting Engineers Inc.; Virginia Niciphor, on the Corporation Board for UCLA, president of the Mothers' Club and treasurer of Intersorority at USC; Betty Price, a long-standing member of the Foundation and Las Voluntarias, chairperson of the docent field leaders, an orchid hobbyist; Loran Whitelock, a cycad aficionado who, finding nothing published on the subject, started doing research and collecting information to write a book himself and has been at it for six years now, and who is gathering plant material for the new prehistoric jungle garden which will be located near the large lake at the Arboretum.

With the addition of these new members the Foundation Board now numbers thirty-four active and fifteen honorary members and every new trustee is being chosen for the contribution he or she can make to furthering the ideas and ideals of the Arboretum now and for the future. It is interesting to note that every board member in town and very often their spouses too turned out to help sell memberships during the Bonanza and the Extravaganza. Your Foundation Board is not sitting back and reviewing what others do, they are right in there doing the work themselves.

The full Board of Trustees meets every other month except during the summer and the executive committee carries on the day to day business and brings recommendations to the full board at their meetings. The executive committee members are Tootie Grivich, Ruth Mary Larson,

Frank Regan, Warren Dunbar, Ramsay Lawson, George Forman, Bob Paradise, Dave Paradis, Alice Douglas, Dolores Hubbell as executive secretary and the Director, Francis

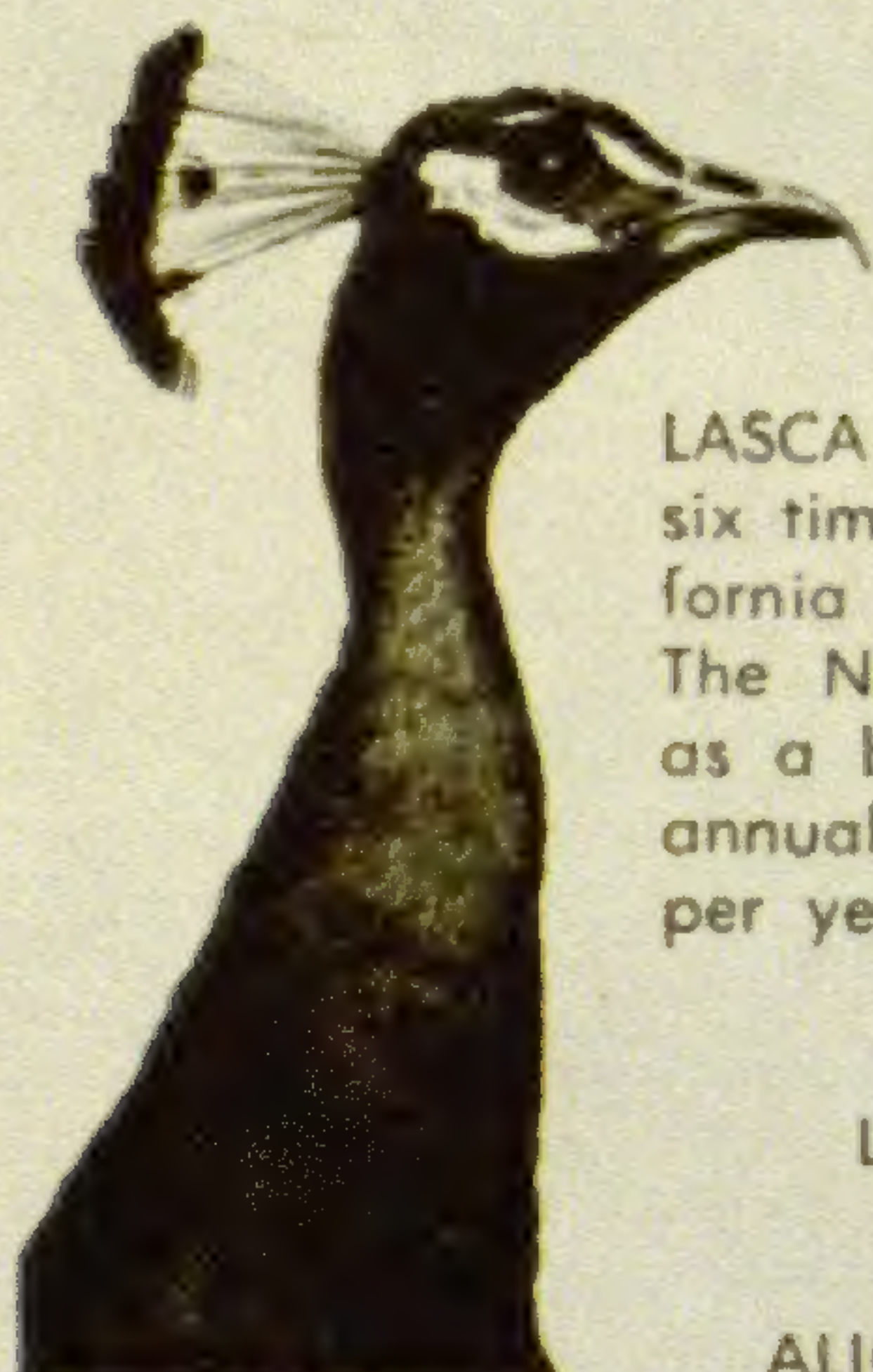
Ching, as an honorary member. They meet on the first Monday of every month at 4:00 p.m. in the Seminar Room.



J. Lyle Cunningham, Lois Mullen, Loran Whitelock, Virginia Niciphor, Betty Price, Thomas Fuelling.

Act Now To Enroll In Fall Classes For Children

The Youth Education Division will be offering Fall classes in container gardening, plant propagation, indoor gardens and vegetable gardening for children in kindergarten through the ninth grade. Classes are held Monday through Thursday afternoons from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on Saturday mornings from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Registration forms are available by sending a postcard with your name and address to the Youth Education Department, Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, 301 North Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia, California 91006. A postcard sent before August 15th will insure your inclusion in the first mailing of registration forms on September first.



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Photographs by
LUAINE SCHELIGA

Editor
ALICE FROST DOUGLAS

Cassia leptophylla is in full bloom during July. See its showy display of yellow flowers outside the Gift Shop and in front of the Administration Building.



Historical Research Associates and Docents in the front row: Eluned Hayslip, Lucette Fogwill, Mary Atkinson; back row: Liz Eberwine, Margaret Dean, Virginia Shelley, Phyllis Chapman, Carol Brayshaw.

Depot Volunteers Have Impressive Job Titles

One group of volunteers enjoying lunch on May 17th in Virginia Shelley's garden were the historical research associates. Each lady has her own name plate and when she is working at the Depot she places it on her desk and it is very impressive.

Inquiry into the type of research being done brought forth the information that Margaret Dean is the architecture expert, Liz Eberwine and Virginia Shelley take care of the archives, Joann Read researches the Rancho families, Lucette Fogwill is studying the Baldwin family, Mary Atkinson oversees the extensive photograph collection, and Eluned Hayslip is caretaker of the postcard collection.

These ladies plus Phyllis Chapman and Carol Brayshaw, history chairperson, open the Depot to the public on Wednesday mornings and Wednesday and Sunday afternoons. Sixteen thousand visitors were greeted and given a tour of the building last year. We hope that left time for the associates to do their research.

Foundation Has 2800 Supporters

With a steady flow of 4 and 5 new memberships every day coming into the Foundation Office and the huge increase of 332 new members signed at the Extravaganza, total membership in the California Arboretum Foundation is now twenty-eight hundred and mounting continuously toward the three thousand



PHOTOGRAPHED BY ALICE DOUGLAS

Hilda Sademan

mark set as a goal by 1975. The most important person at the Arboretum in the servicing of all these memberships is the Foundation secretary, Hilda Sademan. Many of our members have been greeted personally by Hilda. She makes out the membership cards, sends out renewals, happily hands out the plant or other gift that goes with each new membership, keeps the files in order, attends to all Foundation and Department mailings to members, registers members for classes, takes reservations for field trips, a myriad of duties that keeps the membership informed and happy. Hilda is so organized that she kept her equanimity even when those 332 new memberships turned up on her desk one Monday morning. She smiled with delight at such recognition for

the Foundation and had them all processed and the membership cards in the mail within two weeks. This is Hilda's tenth year with the Foundation and the membership could not possibly be in more responsive and responsible hands. Any other secretary might take time off for lunch. Not Hilda. She eats her cottage cheese (if she is dieting) or her sandwich (if she isn't) right at her desk and will put it away at any time to answer the phone or give you a cheery greeting. If you haven't met Hilda, you have missed something out of life.

Volunteers Star In NBC Show

There was great excitement around the Hugo Reid Adobe on May 31st when NBC moved in trucks of equipment and cows and sheep for a taping of Agriculture U.S.A. which will be shown some time in August. The volunteer stars of the show, Carol Brayshaw, Phyllis Chapman and Mitzi Moore could not elicit specific information as to show time from any of the crew or assorted directing types that were managing the affair. Told to appear in costume by 9:00 in the morning, it was after noon before the cameras were turned on



Carol Brayshaw and Mitzi Moore



Phyllis Chapman and Mark Russek

our troupe. By 11:00 a.m. Mitzi was talking about seeing her agent about the delay and showing visible signs of restlessness, nervousness and hunger. At 12:15 Jean O'Toole, volunteer observer, was seen dashing for the coffee shop and sustenance for the actresses. It was a long wait for the few minutes that our stars were actually on the video tape but their stellar performance will shine out from millions of TV sets some day in August and be preserved forever in the archives of NBC. The show co-ordinator was John Stearns, a descendant of Don Abel Stearns of early California history. During those long morning hours while our volunteers waited in the wings, he taped a part of the show inside the Adobe interviewing Patricia Warren, historical curator. Another guest on the show was Mark Russek, a direct descendant of Governors Alvarado, Pico and Carrillo. He had been told to arrive at 8:00 a.m. in full Spanish caballero regalia and had to wait almost as long as Mitzi and corps. His white ruffled shirt visibly dulled and wilted under the dust and relentless sun as the morning turned into afternoon. The rigors of stardom are many but when their time came our volunteers did a great job. Don't miss Agriculture U.S.A., some time in August!

THE SPRING EXTRAVAGANZA WAS A SMASHING SUCCESS

VISITORS TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE TWO DAYS OF HORTICULTURAL DISPLAY

TWO MEMBERSHIP TABLES AND SIGNED UP 332 NEW SUBSCRIBERS



SUCCESS BREAKING ALL PREVIOUS ATTENDANCE RECORDS WHEN 27,481
VISITORS, DEMONSTRATIONS AND WORKSHOPS. THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES STAFFED
SUPPORTERS OF THE CALIFORNIA ARBORETUM FOUNDATION.



27,000 Students in Field Trip Program at Arboretum



Docent field leaders at luncheon in Virginia Shelley's garden from left to right starting with the front row: Suzie Jensen, Phyllis Chapman, Joan Turner, Barbara Clapp, Alice Ferl, Jean O'Toole; second row: Liz Eberwine, Gerry Kaiser, Colleen O'Neill, Cathy Cathcart, Margaret Willets, Louise Jackson, Doris Allen; third row: Nancy Cole, Virginia Shelley, June Hoffman, Ruth Kelterborn (standing), Jane Evans, Marilyn Bochte; back row: Pat Earl, Mary Gerry, Margaret Mauk, Marge Roos, Elizabeth Gammell, Charlene Duncan, Margaret Dean.

Ever since the early days of the Arboretum there has been some sort of program for visiting school children. The first guides were staff members. In 1967 Maria Stewart, wife of the director at the time, formed a group of volunteers to augment the staff in the care and interpretation of the historical area. These ladies were given the first orientation course, named themselves Las Voluntarias because of the Spanish heritage of the Santa Anita Rancho on which the Arboretum is located, and settled into work as archivists, flower arrangers or field leaders. Limited to the historical section in the beginning, it soon became apparent that volunteer guides were a bonanza and that their recruitment and training would become a very important aspect of the Arboretum's endeavor to reach more and more students. Every year since then the field leader program has grown stronger in numbers of par-

ticipating volunteers and in the training curriculum. Under the tutelage of Dave Fields, head tour guide in the public service division, Patricia Warren, historical curator, and Betty

Price, volunteer docent chairperson, there are now forty members of Las Voluntarias giving tours concerning the relationship between plants and man or history. An average of four classes per day are privileged to have these tours and the classes are divided so that there is one tour leader for every fifteen students. Whereas the staff members used to give most of the tours, the volunteers now give the major part of them and the staff only fills in when illness or other unexpected event occurs to keep the volunteer from her intended tour of duty.

As the number of trained volunteers increases it is possible for more and more school classes to participate. Los Angeles County has the most extensive school journey program and federal funds for cultural exposure so over half of the schools taking advantage of this program come from there. However, school busses from Pomona, Azusa, Claremont, Temple City, Rowland Heights, South Pasadena and many other valley school districts are a common sight in the parking lot. Twenty-seven thousand children were given tours this past year. With the ratio of students to docent at fifteen to one it has been possible to change the quality and techniques of the tour. No longer is it by rote.

The leader listens and looks for what the children are interested in and when she finds them becoming involved, asking questions and becoming eager for knowledge, she cap-



Dave Fields (driving) and Betty Price (front seat right) taking the docent field leaders on a tour of the grounds.



PHOTOGRAPHED BY ALICE DOUGLAS

Mavis Blake instructing students at Marshall Fundamental School.

italizes on that interest and the tour takes off in that direction, everyone participating and everyone gaining from the excitement of the involvement. The students always have some tangible reminder of the experience to take back to their school—a peacock feather, a seed pod, an acorn, something found on the tour—for sharing and classroom discussion. Very often the class sends thank you letters and pictures they have drawn to the field leader. It is a rewarding happening for both the students and the volunteer guide.

This past Fall the whole program was almost scuttled by the energy crisis. Los Angeles County schools had to cancel out just as a new group of volunteers finished the training program and were raring to practice their new skills. Some private schools and other schools previously turned away because of a full schedule filled the newly emptied spots but not all of them. No one knew how long the gas shortage would last.

Some schools have never had the transportation facilities to bring them to the Arboretum. There had frequently been discussion of taking an Arboretum program to these schools but there had never been enough volunteers to carry out the idea. Now, all of a sudden, there was

a chance to give it a try. The success of the pilot program has led to a regular schedule of school visitations now carried out under the direction of Tak Niiya, chief of the education division, staff members and Las Voluntarias member Mavis Blake.

It was about the middle of February and shortly after the beginning of the second semester that the Los

Angeles schools suddenly resumed their field trips and were eager to get back their cancelled tours at the Arboretum. They were given any remaining vacancies and the Las Voluntarias docents assumed a full schedule of programs both at the Arboretum and at the schools.

There have never been enough Arboretum tours available to satisfy the demands of the schools (except during the aforementioned energy crisis). More volunteers are always needed to join this interesting and valuable program. Dave says that the best leaders are those who like and relate to the students, those interested in children and education. Las Voluntarias is recruiting new members for this docent program. There will be a seven week training session in September. Anyone interested should call the Foundation Office (447-8207). We look to the past accomplishments of this group with enviable pride and to a future with unlimited possibilities.

The Hugo Reid Roundup will be a gay family evening for members with games, fishing, a magician. Don't miss it!

The Arboretum had ninety thousand visitors in April and again in May.



Volunteer Office staff: Alberta Bundeson, Margaret Besinque, Virginia Shelley, Mary Haley, Cathy Cathcart, Marge Roos.

lasca news

Newsletter of the California Arboretum Foundation

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VOLUNTEER NEWS AND NOTES

● The next general meeting of Las Voluntarias will be on Monday, September 16th, in the Lecture Hall of the Arboretum. This is one week late as September 9th is Admission Day and a County holiday. Coffee will be served at 9:30 a.m. and the meeting will start promptly at 10:00 a.m. As this will be the first meeting after the summer months, members are invited to stay for lunch which will cost \$2.00 per person.

● On May 17th Virginia Shelley hospitably opened her home and garden on Cambridge Avenue for a luncheon in honor of all the new

field leaders, the staff of the Volunteer Office, and the Depot tour guides. Organized by Phyllis Chapman, it was a grand affair attended by over forty members of Las Voluntarias and staff members Don Diamond, Roy Ito, Tak Niiya, and Patricia Warren.

● The Volunteer Office has a fine staff headed by Cathy Cathcart. Stop by and say hello. Remember that it is for your use—any committee meetings or just a place to stop and chat. It also has ice cold drinking water, a great attraction in summer months.

● Wendy Taylor, Bonanza chairperson for 1975, is already busy making plans for this big fund raising event in the Spring.

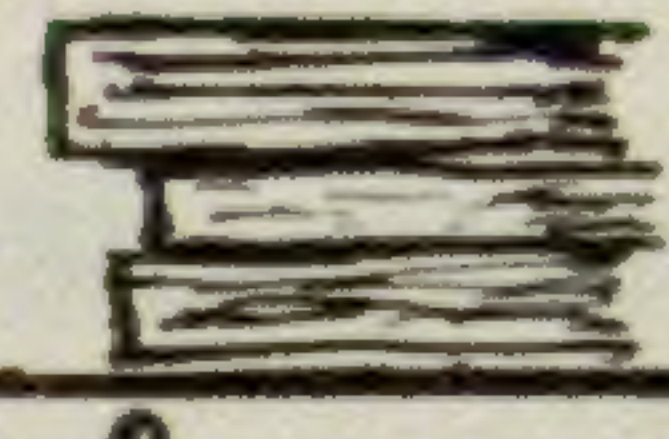
● Don't forget to turn in your volunteer hours to Mary Atkinson. There is a special drawer under the north windows in the Volunteer Office for hour sheets.

● The Arbor Day Committee needs old magazines with colored pictures, especially of trees, to make collages to include in their packets. Drop them off in the Youth Education Office in care of Tak Niiya.

Summer Shopping at the Arboretum

gifts


plants


books

GIFT SHOP



hours
10 to 5